

SECRET

SE/CPI

12 October 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: [] Chief, PP

SUBJECT: Summary of CIA Albanian Operations

1. Until July 1954 the activities of the National Committee for a Free Albania, created by the American and British Services in the summer of 1949 and reorganized on a broader and more representative basis in December 1953, were directed by a CIA and a MI-6 case officer in Rome. Contact with the NCFA headquarters in New York was maintained through a covert consultant, while the Albanian Section of [] supervised the preparation of the texts of the clandestine radio broadcasts and the propaganda leaflets, and directed the agent operations conducted in the name of the NCFA. On 1 July 1954, by agreement with the British, the American and British case officers were withdrawn from Rome. Since that date all direct contact on the part of CIA with members of the NCFA has been only in the U.S. and Athens. This has led to the fear on the part of some Committee members that U.S. interest in the fate of Albania has lessened. The Albanian emigration has also been confused and disturbed by the announcement (12 August 1954) of the formation of the National Democratic Committee for a Free Albanian under the leadership of the dissident "Professor" wing of the Balli Kombetar; this wing withdrew from the NCFA at the time of the reorganization of the NCFA which it has since attempted to sabotage in every way possible. The SE Division has recently proposed to the IO Division that the responsibility for the NCFA as a political emigre body be transferred to the Free Europe Committee (FEC) with the covert PW activities conducted in the name of the NCFA to remain an SE responsibility. ~~at~~ The SE Division believes this move would strengthen the position of the NCFA in the eyes of the Albanian emigration and that it would help to dispel the fears that the West is losing interest in Albania.

2. When an Albanian project was first under consideration by CIA in 1949 it was found that the British had initiated a project with substantially the same objectives. It was, therefore, decided to make the U.S. and British projects a coordinated venture to utilize the joint facilities of CIA and MI-6 and to prevent treading on each other's toes. Since that time the basic principle governing Albanian activities has been integrated policy coordination with disengagement on the operational level.

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3. U.S. and British agent operations have been entirely separate with an exchange of general information regarding the areas of operation and approximate timing of activities to prevent mutual interference. Operational intelligence has been freely interchanged in the field and there is an interchange of general intelligence at the London-Washington level. Propaganda activities were jointly conducted in Rome and Athens until June 1954 when both CIA and MI-6 withdrew their case officers from Rome. These activities are now coordinated in Athens.

(Chief, SE)

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